

Lord Mayor's Message to NOTL ~ for 29 Jan 09

CAN YOU HANDLE THIS?

CanGro. Fort Erie track. NDSS. Seems like the same story with all of them - bureaucrats preferring to make no decision rather than take a risk.

The Town asked DSBN to help send a personalized envelope to each of the 730 public high school age residents living in NOTL. The Town would do all the work and cover the costs. DSBN just had to provide the address labels.

DSBN wrote. "We are very careful with respect to entering anyone's boundaried area for advertising or promotion."

"According to Board policy, once a student has attended grade 9 in a particular high school, that school becomes their Home School for their entire career. ...they have all of the rights... as if they lived next door. We treat them as their own."

"Is there anything you can think of that we could include to increase the fairness and respect the choices families have already made?"

"We feel [the Town should distribute brochures to every household] that this would be good in that every family gets the information about NDSS, not just the families with school aged students."

The matter was discussed with Principals from the other schools. Trustee Lynn Campbell was asked what she thought about having brochures for other schools added to the Town's package.

Two days too late to do the personalized mailing, DSBN suggested a mass distribution.

What's wrong with sending information about NDSS to all high school students in our Town? Why is it OK to send it to their families?

Why does DSBN think our students can't handle information about NDSS? We trust our young people to make the split second decisions needed to drive cars and farm equipment. Why does DSBN think they can't handle information about their local high school?

Our young people are neighbours; they work together and play together. Why shouldn't they be treated as equals and know what's happening in their community? They study the very same course content regardless of which high school they attend!

Look for a large brown envelope in your mailbox. It will have a label that says "Can You Handle This?"

This is the information we couldn't address personally.

Please consider this information when you and your children discuss their high school Intention Sheets. I know you can handle it!